

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims includes any amendments and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-32 (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) A method for collecting and identifying one or more environmental samples, said method comprising:

(a) providing to a user a test kit for collecting one or more environmental samples, said test kit comprising:

(i) at least one test tape comprising:

a transparent window area, wherein said ~~test tape is transparent~~ window area is defined by a surrounding non-transparent area, for permitting viewing only through said window area;

an adhesive surface on one side of said test tape within the transparent window area having a releasable adhesive thereon; and

an information area adjacent said transparent window area comprising preprinted indicia on which a user may manually record information; and

(ii) a slide provided separate from said test tape and adapted for viewing with a microscope;

(b) collecting at least one environmental sample within said window area of said test tape by pressing said adhesive surface against a surface having an environmental sample thereon; and

(c) affixing said test tape to said slide such that said environmental sample is affixed between said slide and said test tape within said transparent window area for microscopic viewing.

34. (Previously Added) The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein said test tape is releasably affixed to a backing and wherein said method comprises the additional step of removing said test tape from said backing prior to said collecting step.

35. (Previously Added) The method as claimed in claim 34, wherein said backing comprises instructions for use of said test tape.

36. (Previously Added) The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein said test kit further comprises a placard having a slide storage area adapted to releasably retain said slide on said placard and wherein said method comprises the additional step of shipping said placard with the slide and test tape retained thereon to a laboratory for microscopic viewing after said affixing step.

37. (Previously Added) The method as claimed in claim 36, wherein said placard comprises preprinted alignment indicia within said slide storage area, said preprinted indicia being visible through said slide when the slide is retained on said placard to indicate proper affixation of said test tape on the slide.

38. (Previously Added) The method as claimed in claim 36, wherein said placard additionally comprises a placard information area adjacent said slide storage area and wherein said method comprises the additional step of manually recording information on said placard information area adjacent and corresponding to said test tape after the collecting step.

39. (Currently Amended) A method for collecting and identifying one or more environmental samples, said method comprising:

- (a) providing to a user a test kit for collecting one or more environmental samples, said test kit comprising:
- (i) a plurality of test tapes, each said test tape comprising:
- a transparent window area, wherein said ~~test tape~~ is transparent window area is defined by a surrounding non-transparent area, for permitting viewing only through said window area; and
- an adhesive surface on one side of the test tape within the window area with a releasable adhesive thereon; and
- a slide configured to enable ~~all of said~~ a plurality of said plurality of test tapes to be affixed to said slide;
- (b) collecting one or more environmental samples on each of said plurality of test tapes by pressing the adhesive surface of each test tape against a surface having an environmental sample thereon; and
- (c) affixing each of said test tapes to said slide such that the respective one or more environmental samples is affixed between each said test tape and said slide for microscopic viewing within each window area.

40. (Previously Added) The method as claimed in claim 39, wherein said affixing step comprises affixing each said test tape to said slide such that said transparent windows are aligned side-by-side on said slide for successive examination of the environmental samples.

41. (Previously Added) The method as claimed in claim 39, wherein each of said window areas is positioned in the same location on each test tape.

42. (Previously Added) The method as claimed in claim 39, wherein said plurality of test tapes are provided releasably affixed to a backing card having instructions for the use of said

test tapes, and said method comprises the additional step of removing said test tapes from the backing card prior to the collecting step.

43. (Previously Added) The method as claimed in claim 39, wherein said test kit further comprises a placard having a slide storage area adapted to releasably retain said slide on said placard, and said method comprises the additional step of shipping said placard with the slide and test tapes thereon to a laboratory for microscopic viewing after said affixing step.

44. (Previously Added) The method as claimed in claim 43, wherein said placard comprises preprinted alignment indicia within said slide storage area, said preprinted alignment indicia being visible through said slide when the slide is retained on said placard to indicate the proper affixation of each said test tape on the slide after the collecting step.

45. (Previously Added) The method as claimed in claim 44, wherein said placard additionally comprises a placard information area adjacent said slide storage area, and said method comprises the additional step of manually recording information corresponding to each said test tape in said placard information area after said collecting step.

46. (Currently Amended) A test tape for aid in collecting and identifying one or more environmental samples, said test tape comprising:

a transparent window area integral within the test tape, said transparent window area comprising less than one-half of the area of said test tape and being defined by a surrounding non-transparent area;

an adhesive surface on one side of said test tape within the transparent window area having a releasable adhesive thereon;

a non-transparent handling area adjacent said transparent window area such that said test tape is transparent for viewing only through said transparent window area, said non-transparent area comprises preprinted indicia on which information may be manually recorded; and

a handling end of said test tape comprising an adhesive-free tab with indicia instructing the user to handle the test tape by the tab, wherein said transparent window area is positioned remote from said handling end and said non-transparent area is positioned between said transparent window area and said handling end.

47. (Previously Added) The test tape as claimed in claim 46, wherein said test tape has a curved edge.

48. (Previously Added) The test tape as claimed in claim 46, wherein said window area presents a grid therein, said grid defining a plurality of zones within said window area for location of said at least one environmental sample within one of said zones.

49. (Currently Amended) A test kit for aid in collecting and identifying one or more environmental samples, said test kit comprising:

(a) at least one test tape, said test tape comprising:

a transparent window area, wherein said ~~test tape is transparent~~ window area defined by a surrounding non-transparent area, permitting for viewing only through said window area and wherein said window area comprises less than one-half of the area of the test tape;

an adhesive surface on one side of said test tape within the transparent window area, having a releasable adhesive thereon; and

an information area adjacent to said transparent area comprising preprinted indicia on which a user may manually record information; and

(b) a backing on which said test tape is releasably affixed, said backing comprising instructions for use of said test tape;

(c) a slide provided separate from said test tape on a placard having a slide storage area adapted to releasably retain said slide on said placard for storage and shipment, said placard comprising preprinted alignment indicia within said slide storage area visible through said slide, when the slide is retained on said placard to indicate proper placement and alignment of said test tape on the slide.

50. (Previously Added) The test kit as claimed in claim 49, wherein said placard additionally comprises a placard information area adjacent said slide storage area having preprinted indicia on which a user may manually record information.

51. (Previously Added) The test kit as claimed in claim 50, wherein said placard has at least one slot for insertion of a portion of said slide to releasably retain said slide in place in the slide storage area.

52. (Previously Added) The test kit as claimed in claim 49, wherein said test tape further comprises a non-adhesive tab at one end thereof, said tab enhancing user manipulation of said test tape.

53. (Previously Added) The test kit as claimed in claim 52, wherein said window area is displaced from said tab to further enhance user manipulation.

54. (Previously Added) The test kit as claimed in claim 53, wherein said information area is positioned between said window area and said tab.

55. (Previously Added) The test kit as claimed in claim 52, wherein said tab comprises indicia instructing the user to handle the test tape by the tab.

56. (Previously Added) The test kit as claimed in claim 49, wherein said test tape has a curved edge.

57. (Currently Amended) A test kit for aid in collecting and identifying one or more environmental samples, said test kit comprising:

- (a) a plurality of test tapes, each test tape comprising:
 - a transparent window area, wherein said ~~test tape is transparent~~ window area defined by a surrounding non-transparent area, for permitting viewing only through said window area; and
 - an adhesive surface on one side of the test tape within the window area with the releasable adhesive thereon wherein each of said window areas is positioned in the same location on each test tape;
- (b) a backing card configured to enable said plurality of test tapes to be releasably affixed to said backing card, said backing card comprising instructions for use of said test tapes;
- (c) a slide configured to enable all of said plurality of test tapes to be affixed to said slide and releasably retained on a placard having a placard information area adjacent with preprinted indicia on which information may be recorded.

58. (Previously Added) The test kit as claimed in claim 57, wherein said placard has at least one slot for insertion of a portion of said slide to releasably retain said slide in place in the slide storage area.

59. (Previously Added) The test kit as claimed in claim 57, wherein each test tape further comprises a non-adhesive tab at one end thereof, said tab enhancing user manipulation of said test tape.

60. (Previously Added) The test kit as claimed in claim 59, wherein said window area on each test tape is displaced from said tab to further enhance said manipulation.

61. (Previously Added) The test kit as claimed in claim 57, wherein said each test tape additionally comprises an information area positioned between said window area and said tab having preprinted indicia on which a user may record information.

62. (Previously Added) The test kit as claimed in claim 59, wherein each said tab comprises indicia instructing the user to handle the test tape by the tab.

63. (Previously Added) The test kit as claimed in claim 57, wherein said window area of each test tape comprises less than one-half of the area of the test tape.

64. (Previously Added) The test kit as claimed in claim 57, wherein each said test tape is substantially the size of a standard microscope slide.

65. (Previously Added) The test kit as claimed in claim 57, wherein each test tape has a curved edge.

66. (Previously Added) The test kit as claimed in claim 57, wherein each said window area presents a grid therein, said grid defining a plurality of zones within said window area for location of said at least one environmental sample within one of said zones..